THE CHIRONIAN

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THE CHIRONIAN

"In Essentials, Unity; In Non-Essentials, Liberty; In All Things, Charity."

VOLUME XXXIII MARCH 1917 NUMBER 9

Departments of the College and Hospital
No. 1. The Anatomical Department

BY

ERNEST R. EATON, CLASS OF 1919.

THERE is no study within the reach of the faculties of man more justly entitled to his respect and more instructive to his understanding than that of anatomy. It is through a thoroughgoing knowledge of this subject that the medical student of to-day is conducted to a degree of efficiency indispensable to a safe and judicious practice of medicine. An ancient philosopher and physician, upon examination of the structure of the hand and foot, phrased the following well known and beautifully expressed thought:—"In explaining these things," he said, "I compose a solemn hymn to the author of our bodily frame and in this I think there is more true piety than in sacrificing him to hetacombs of oxen, or burnt offering of the most costly perfumes; for I first endeavor to know him myself and afterwards to show him to others, to explain to them how great is his wisdom, his virtue and his goodness."

Such were the words of Galen, whose genius for a long period formed the rallying point of almost everything learned and venerable in the realm of medicine. The fervidness of spirit, the excitability of imagination and the high moral interpretation did not die with him, for precisely the same emotions and sentiments

Professor W. E. Halfmann, Class of 1909.

are found in many persons, who have devoted themselves earnestly to the cultivation of anatomy.

Anatomy bears the same close and intimate relation to every department of the healing art that chemistry does to the arts generally and mathematics to the physical sciences. Hence, its importance has at all times been recognized, and in our own day is given a first and foremost place in the medical college curriculum. Its utility may be traced on every page of the history of medicine and, were it not so, physiology would be a tissue of speculation and uncertain hypotheses, surgery would be without a guide invincible, and medicine must degenerate into a blind empyricism. Possessing so many relations with other branches, and bearing upon every department of its teaching, the subject of anatomy is deserving of more than ordinary consideration.

It is the purpose of this brief outline of the department of anatomy in the New York Homeopathic Medical College and Flower Hospital, to state the methods pursued and the results achieved under the direction of Dr. Walter Halfmann, Professor of Anatomy and Director of the Anatomical Laboratories.

The Course of Anatomy is divided as follows:—

I. First Year.

First Semester.

Bones of Upper Extremity and Thorax and their articulations.

Dissection of Upper Extremity and Thorax and their muscles, nerves, etc.

Bones of Lower Extremity, Pelvis and articulations.
Dissection of Lower Extremity and Abdomen.
Bones of the Skull.
Second Semester.
Dissection of Head and Neck, including:—
Spinal Cord.
Brain.
Cranial Nerves
Special Senses: Eye, Ear, Nose.

II. Second Year.
First Semester.
Gross and Microscopic Study of the Spinal Cord.
Brain.
Cranial Nerves.
Spinal Nerves.
Second Semester.
Organs of Digestion.
Organs of Voice and Respiration.
Urinary Organs.
Male Organs of Generation.
Female Organs of Generation.
Regional Anatomy, including surface markings and surgical anatomy.

Descriptive anatomy means the shape, connection, and intimate composition of every part of the body. Through it is gained a complete knowledge of the head and neck, thorax, abdomen and extremities. In teaching this subject Dr. Halfmann and his assistants divide the work done in the following manner:

(1) Class Room Instruction.
(2) Personal Dissection.
(3) Enforced private study.

1. Class Room Instruction.—There is no department of truth, be it ever so ably treated in books, that may not be learned with additional facility by oral instruction from a competent teacher. It is generally conceded that Dr. Halfmann has a grasp of anatomy few men are capable of attaining and because of his thorough knowledge he speaks with a finality that makes his words excite interest and produce mental effort that could not be inspired by mere study of books. With Gray's anatomy as a text

C. E. Williams, Class of 1912.

book for class room work, the student is assigned a lesson and the effort is made to so visualize that lesson as to produce a permanent mental picture. Dr. Halfman often makes the statement that, unless a personal mental picture is obtained by the student, it is impossible to retain an assignment in anatomy. This statement alone shows clearly the modern emphasis placed upon this particular department of medicine. Better than a solitary study of color plates is a picture impressed upon the imagination. Discouraged and perplexed at first the student finds himself lost in a labyrinth of material, impossible and unfathomable. Under the leadsrship of Dr. Halfmann the parts of the body are separated and classified, and before the student is aware of his progress he is initiated deep into the mysteries of the human body.

To make the subject comparatively easy for the memory of the student the following didactic methods are adopted:—

(a) Repetition.—To repeat and keep on repeating gives the student confidence in himself and a mastery of the difficult vocabulary.

(b) Large illustrated pictures are shown in the class room to aid mental pictures. The stereopticon may also be used to great advantage in the lecture room.

(c) Bones are drawn by the student and a set of bones are loaned to familiarize him with the skeleton by both the sense of touch and sight.

(d) Memory is aided by the law of association, and by the added incentive of quizzes quick and searching. Just as plants, and chemicals, and homeopathic drugs are arranged in classes, so are classes of anatomy devised for the aid of the student

(e) Examinations at two weeks' intervals, final examinations

of parts and reviews of past work are all used. Examinations are conducted in such a strict manner as best serves discipline and knowledge.

(f) Surface markings and many interesting facts of other departments are intimated in order that the work may not be too monotonous.

(g) Well written note books, classified and indexed, are encouraged and drawing books are considered and required as part of the year's work.

(h) Blackboard illustrations are frequently used, with accompanying clear deductions.

In the department of osteology, during the past year, the class room instruction was under the capable leadership of Dr. Joseph Delahunt. Dr. Delahunt also assisted in the dissecting room, assuming charge of the large group of dental students from the New York and New Jersey dental colleges who by arrangement with the college office take a special course in dissecting in our anatomy department. During the present college year, 1916-17, Dr. W. L. Williamson is teaching arthrology and osteoology, taking the place of Dr. Delahunt. Under Dr. Williamson's direction the high standard of efficiency of the anatomy department will be conscientiously maintained. The Department of Anatomy is fortunate also in having, as an assistant, Dr. C. E. Williams, who teaches the osteology of the skull, eye, ear, nose and throat. This important branch is clearly and thoroughly taught under the masterful direction of Dr. Williams.

2. Personal Dissection.—In dissection the student is again given opportunity by sense of touch, hearing and seeing to grasp subjectively an inclusive conception of the human body. Anatomy being the basis of surgery, the student is led to an understanding of anatomy and Dr. Halfmann directs attention to the cadaver, both as detached facts and as a unit.

It has often been a problem to relieve the monotony of the dissecting room. Dr. Halfmann, who has taught histology in the college as a parallel course with anatomy, compares for the student, from time to time, the minute examination of the tissues histologically and the same tissues as seen and handled in the gross in the cadaver.

The students are divided in groups of four to each body, two

W. L. Williamson, Class of 1916

on each side. While two dissect the other two read from Cunningham or Gray, Dr. Halfmann and his assistants questioning the students, asking them to locate and name the various structures, stating the course and relations of blood vessels and nerves, and the origin of muscles, etc.

The bodies are well prepared, and rarely, if ever, is the student, whose knife slips, infected. The students are provided with lockers and each student wears a gown or apron and rubber gloves. Each student group is responsible for the care in covering, keeping moist and in good condition the body he dissects. The dissecting room, under the care of Mr. Leonard, is a model of cleanliness and efficiency and as a workshop it has in many respects unequalled facilities for the art of dissecting.

To the student, previously experienced in dissecting of lower animals and acquainted with the subject of embryology, it is less difficult to appreciate the peculiar relation between parts of the body and their development. In the trying atmosphere of the dissecting room, such an equipped student gathers the more quickly a certain number of concrete pictures of different parts of the body. These are clearly impressed upon his mind, and when he has occasion later to deal with these same facts he has the advantage of finding himself in the presence of familiar structures.

There are certain landmarks which guide the surgeon in the course he should take. Dr. Halfmann, both in the lecture and dissecting room, by blackboard sketches and by pointing out surface markings upon the human body, gives the student determining directions that will aid him later in the length and depth of incision limits, to which he must confine himself in surgery. In a course of Regional Anatomy given in this department

by Dr. H. H. Safford this aspect is enlarged on and a more comprehensive grasp of the subject matter given the student. It is interesting to the reader to know further that a general course of anatomy is given the nurses of Flower Hospital by Dr. P. W. Bergen.

Boundaries and extent of each region, elevation, depressions, which chequer its surface, are impressed with care upon the student.

Orally and practically the parts within an area from the skin to the solid substratum of bone are displayed and explained.

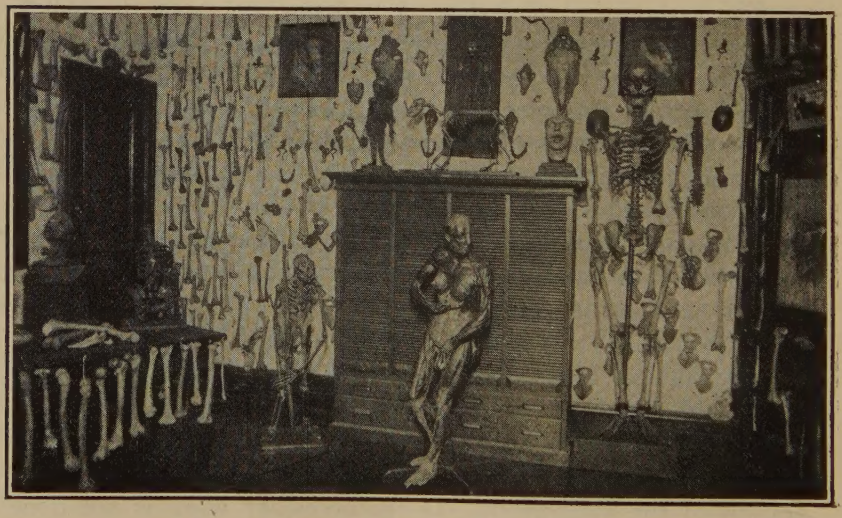
3. Enforced Private Study.—It is essentially one of the prime requisites to a four years' course, in a medical college, that the student study systematically and doggedly. This is particularly true in the anatomical department, for only by long continued study does the student gain depth to his purpose. By perseverance and patience, the student secures the solidity needed, upon which, as on a sure foundation, the future accomplishment is built. It is forever true that the seen is built on the unseen, and the unseen side of the medical student's career is the toil and drudgery of personal and private study. Anatomy must be studied. In order to study, work of the most tedious kind is called for, and the only way to work is to work.

The assignment of new work and the review of the old is made by Dr. Halfmann, with the expectation that an effort be made to master the material given. Difficult and ambiguous phases of the lesson are gone over thoroughly and carefully before, and after, the assignment is made. The colored plates in Gray and Cunningham are studied, the description read carefully, and drawings and outlines made for reference. In osteology, a drawing book of sketches of bones is completed during private study, and each bone of the body sketched in pencil. After the daily assignment is mastered, and that is generally by the morning following, class room quizzes detrmine the extent to which the student has been imbued with the spirit of anatomy. Dr. Halfmann rightly emphasizes the fact that unless anatomy is studied out of the lecture room it cannot be acquired. Because of this assured axiom Dr. Halfmann insists upon the proper preparation of the assignment. If the necessary work is not done the student suffers the burden. At first given all the encourage-

ment and incentives, if not successful, the deduction is readily made that either the student is inefficient, through natural dullness, and therefore not equal to the task, or he is neglectful and lazy. If the latter, woe betide the guilty one, under the iron discipline of Dr. Halfmann.

Absolutely impartial and uncompromising, but withal just and conscientious in all his teaching labors, Dr. Halfmann endeavors to make the careless and indifferent interested in the subject of anatomy. Only a class room study of several weeks would reveal the capability and efficiency, new inventions devised, subtle and sure, and the modern methods adopted in achieving a goal of general efficiency in the department of anatomy.

An amusing story serves to illustrate the point in question—several students had come from another Medical College one month or more after the anatomy course had begun—these students were being given bodies for dissection when the following conversation took place between Dr. Halfmann and a student: Dr. Halfmann. "These students are from ——— College, and they are supposed to have had osteology." Student, "They may have had osteology there, but that is not like having it under Dr. Halfmann." (At this time Dr. Halfmann was driving the students night and day.) Dr. Halfmann (modestly and perhaps



The "Bone Room" of the Anatomy Department.

sarcastically), "Well, I don't know, sometimes when you fellows recite in review I don't think I am getting anywhere with you in teaching anatomy." Student, "Well, Dr. Halfmann, we must give you credit for at least the *inclination.*"

The inclination is there, and the student who does not surround and protect himself with the same environment of inclination might just as well not attend classes in anatomy. Nonetheless the student knows, as he begins his career, that no man could be more conscientious in his desire to make students anatomists than Dr. Halfmann, and that in the final analysis, with even an appearance of severity, he is their faithful friend and sympathizer in all they do for the advancement of themselves and the institution.

General Anatomy.—Every animal is an assemblage of many organs, each of which executes a particular function, and, by harmonious co-operation with others, keep the machine alive. A minute analysis of each of these organs proves that it is composed of many elementary textures, just as we find chemical substances made up by a combination of several gases, acids, alkalies and other matters. Moreover it is ascertained that every organ possesses such tissues in greater or lesser number and in proportion exhibits great varieties. Thus each tissue and each organ are possessed of specific vital properties, in which they differ to a remarkable degree in the phenomena and intensity of life.

Cartilage, tendons, bones, have but little life, muscles and skin have it plentifully. Further, each tissue has its peculiar modification of vitality with reposing secretions, exhalation absorption, nutrition. Such a knowledge of anatomy enables the students to an understanding of physiology, and without it many other subjects in the medical world are made impossible of comprehension.

It is an unusual man who, day in and day out, can stand the strain of teaching students the difficult and perplexing subject of anatomy. By diligent perseverance Dr. Halfmann accomplishes his task, using all legitimate aids in his course. Realizing that books carry only so far as that means of assistance can go, the interpretation in a direct and appealing manner is made in the class room. But the axiom is never for a moment lost sight of—

"that what a student sees and hears he can remember much better than what he hears alone."

When we review imperfect methods, meager advantages and restricted opportunities, for cultivation of practical anatomy, afforded in so many Medical Colleges throughout the country, we can appreciate the efficiency of the department of anatomy of our own College and Hospital, under the direction of Dr. Halfmann.

The good old times so often spoken of in thought and wish to-day are the myths of croakers, with which they would retard the progressive spirit of the present. Never has anatomy made such rapid and substantial progress, and never has the advancement been so rapid and marked as in this country. Joining diligent work to the unequaled opportunities that we now have, the laborers in the vast field of medicine, in whatever department they toil, will meet with a reward never before equaled. The future opens to the students prospects bright and inviting.

Minutes of the Alumni Meeting

OF THE

NEW YORK HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE AND FLOWER HOSPITAL

AT

HOTEL ROYALTON.

January 8th, 1917.

Meeting called to order by the President, Dr. J. Wilford Allen, at 8:50 P. M.

The following letter was read calling the special meeting.

(Here the Secretary read the letter calling the special meeting.)

Dr. Allen: This letter is the cause for the meeting tonight. I feel it is due you to explain what I meant when I put in that letter the words "an impending crisis." At the time it was written and sent out, the Dean had resigned. At that time there was in my pocket a letter from one of the foremost members of the Faculty, which read, "I am satisfied Dean Copeland intends to carry out his resolve, to resign, absolutely." That is what was meant by "an impending crisis." Dean Copeland has recalled his resignation. He is still Dean and expects to be Dean for two years further. During the past two weeks it has been my misfortune to hear by letter and word of mouth that Dr. Allen was being made use of as President of this Association to further the political aims of a few men. Such is not the case. I called this meeting in response to the request made by twenty-one members of our Association and in order that a brief report might be made to you on the answers received from Alumni in response to the circular letter sent out by me a few months ago. Please keep in mind one very important point. I stand here tonight representing no faction, no group or set of men, no fraternity. I simply represent you, the members of this Association. I earnestly desire its backing and the spirit of every man present tonight, in order that we may further the interests of our Alma Mater.

(Here Dr. Allen read the letter from G. Forest Martin, and also his paper of suggestions, as follows:)

Fellow Alumni:

Some months ago, against my earnest desires, you wished upon me the responsibility of being President of your Association. It was unsought by me, but following my habit, which is to shoulder any burden which is mine, I looked for means by which I could be of service to you and through you to the College, which, I feel, the majority of us love. It is not necessary, at this time, to state in detail the forces which are working for our disintegration, the unwarranted criticism, petty jealousies, the factional fights, the luke-warmness of some, the absolute hatred and devilishness of others who would throttle their mother College, and the opposition of the old school, all tending to undermine, and eventually, unless counteracted, ruin our College and Homeopathy in this city. There never was a truer maxim than "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

For some reason the enthusiasm of the Alumni for the College has been gradually waning, and our annual meeting has been losing the snap, vim and large attendance of former years. If you look at the matter squarely and honestly you will all frankly admit that these facts are true. Keep in mind, I am not blaming the Cause, but I am blaming the men back of it. We are the responsible parties.

After careful consideration it seemed to me that the best way to get after, and stir up, the members of our Association was by means of a personal letter inviting criticism, comments, or suggestion regarding the Association and the College. A letter was sent, the result being, to my mind, a most encouraging sign for our Association, our College, and for Homeopathy.

I was led to believe that there was so little concern among our graduates that very few answers would be received, and even those would be of very slight interest. I am pleased to report to you that there were three hundred and twenty-one letters received, one coming from a graduate of the Class of 1860. With the exception of the Class of 1871, members of every class responded, from 1869 to 1915, totaling forty-seven classes. The Class of '96 was the most interested, fourteen men sending in their response. Next came my own class, '95, and 1914 and

'15, each with twelve replies, then the Class of '81 with eleven. It is well for you to know that not only were the men in the large cities interested, but men in small towns all over the North, East and West sent in their answers, *158* communities being represented. May I, at this time, thank those men who had interest enough in their College and sufficient confidence in me to write as they did. The letters, many of them, were written with the utmost frankness. I hope, in the near future, to write to every man who wrote to me.

On carefully reviewing these three hundred and twenty-one letters, I am glad to say that they indicate, in a large majority of instances, a decided belief in the truths of Homœopathy and a splendid loyalty to our College and all it stands for. In passing may I quote from a note from a suburban alumnus, which shows the spirit manifested in many other letters:

> "The Cause is bound to stand all storms, and eventually to win out. To stand still, and possibly, for the time being, fall behind, is humiliating. My heart, my hand, and my pocket-book are for the Cause"

The letters indicate, moreover, that the Alumni outside of New York are perfectly aware of the strife going on between factions and individuals in this city and they will not stand for it. Stop OUR fighting, drop all petty jealousies, get together, and we will have a united alumni association to back this College which stands for so much to most of us.

You may say my letter uncovered and brought to light our true weakness and that it will not get us anywhere. Surely if we do not realize our weakness I am told others do, especially the various State Boards, the Educational Committee of the A. M. A., the Rockefeller Institute Foundation and many of the leaders of the dominant school. If we are to grow and be stronger, we must know fully of our weaknesses and how to overcome them. I believe that our Alumni stand ready, and even eager, to co-operate with the New York men in the accomplishment of means securing success and honor to our Alma Mater. I now bring before you some of the problems which we must consider in the measures to be taken to secure the maintenance of our College.

First.—Homeopathy. Has it had its day? Is it a failure?

Is it still a fundamental law as in the time of its discoverer? Personally, I believe Homeopathy is far from being moribund. I believe thoroughly in its truths and that it is destined to still greater usefulness. I fully believe we will see in the near future, the renaissance of Homeopathy. We must stir up a real enthusiasm for the cause, for the truths of the law of Similia will not, and cannot die. If we do not watch out, this law will be re-discovered under some other guise, clothed in modern apparel by the old school.

Second.—We must endeavor to secure a more genuine fraternal feeling among our men, causing them to drop petty jealousy and develop more self-forgetfulness and broadmindedness in our love for our institution and for *the greater cause.* Shoulder to shoulder work is what we must have. It is time for cliques and factions to bury the axe, or the axe will kill the bird that lays the gloden egg. It has been said that "It would be an impossible thing to get all the Manhattan brethren to agree on anything not excepting the hope of future regeneration and the procession of the equinoxes." Can't we put the man who said that into the Ananias Club? We will if we ever stop to realize how closely our own personal interests and welfare are bound up with the interests and welfare of our College!

Third.—We should have a faculty representative of the best we have in New York and its vicinity. A faculty composed of men chosen for their reputation as men, reputation for their special department and their unselfish devotion to the College and, finally, men who have a decided faith in Homeopathic Therapeutics and are willing to co-operate with the most important department in our institution, namely, the Department of Materia Medica. Take away that department and the reason for our existence is gone. Under Timothy Field Allen—"One-fourth of our Faculty would be dropped because of their lack of interest and zeal for, or knowledge of Homeopathic principles."

Fourth.—I believe no radical innovation, such as has taken place in our College within the past two years, should ever be taken by our Trustees without due consultation with, or approval by, the Alumni upon whose support, in a very large degree, our institution lives.

Fifth.—Consider the wisdom of joining some university, as its medical department, having strong chairs in Homeopathic Materia Medica and Therapeutics, at the same time teaching the entire field of medicine and surgery. Since writing this, I understand that there is the possibility of some such union in the near future.

Sixth.—Give the head of our institution, as long as he is its head, our earnest and loyal support. The problems to be dealt with are complex enough without having to deal with internal and external jealousies and other intrigues. Constructive, not destructive, criticism I believe should be, and is welcomed by him. When I remember he is simply a human being I realize he cannot be perfect. He has made mistakes; so would you, so would I; so would any other man short of Divine. On the whole, he has done wonderfully well considering the problems which have confronted him. REMEMBER, WE HAVE NEVER HAD A DEAN WHO WAS NOT UNMERCIFULLY AND HARSHLY CRITICISED.

Seventh.—Immediate steps should be taken to start among our Alumni a campaign of truth and enlightenment, to offset the campaign of destructive and malicious criticism which has taken place regarding our institution. The "knockers" have been having their own way too long and the "boosters," most of them, have been in the background.

Eighth.—I believe thoroughly in the statement that "No one of our institutions should be used for the exploitation of individual men, but for the exploitation of our own school of medicine as a unit." We should proclaim the principle of the best man for each place, regardless of affiliation. There should be a multiplication of opportunities for our young men in the hospitals and clinics instead of the centralizing of power in a few so-called "dominant" personalities." Flower, Hahnemann, Laura Franklin, and the Metropolitan Hospital should all be closely affiliated and used for the instruction of our students.

Ninth.—Our Trustees. I have always looked upon our Trustees as a group of men full of zeal for, and proud to be of service to, the College; a group of men every one intensely active in its behalf. Now what is the truth concerning them? Some are Homeopaths, others Allopaths. Some are active and

zealous, some are doing a little work and others none at all. Instead of twenty-two men, who compose the Board, setting down month by month to study the welfare and finances of our institution, I find that the meetings average seven to ten men. Some trustees never attend a meeting. This is absolutely wrong and should be remedied at once. One of our strongest assets is a well organized and active Board of Trustees.

Tenth.—Finances. We should have no hold-ups or appeals for money at our annual dinners, but have a Board of Trustees with a President at its head, all alive to the opportunities of the present time when money is to be obtained more freely than for years. Instruct them to immediately inaugurate a movement to raise an endowment of half a million dollars for our College. As one Alumnus said to me recently, "Get into the spot-light with the goods and the interest of progressive people will focus upon the greatest discovery of the modern world and the money to finance the campaign of enlightenment will follow that concentration of interest." I quote: "There never was a well thought-out course of action, which, when once started, has not been encouraged by financial assistance. Unless there is sufficient interest and earnest endeavor manifested, we cannot ask for financial aid, nor will it be granted, until we have shown a concentrated purpose. If the law of Similia cannot bear the light of investigation, in the name of Truth, let us throw aside our claim and acknowledge ourselves defeated and no longer be deluded, or worse, hypocritical;" so I say, start a financial campaign at once for a half million dollar endowment fund.

Eleventh and Last.—Let our two fraternities vie with each other in showing by their loyalty for our institution that they, too, have been unfairly and unjustly criticised.

There are other things to consider, such as stirring up a better college spirit, which is sadly lacking among the students; a conservation of that spirit among our recent graduates; a first-class Committee on Publicity to push our goods; some method of encouraging the young graduates, settling in the suburban districts; and, lastly, a larger College Committee.

Keep in mind, Fellow Alumni, I have simply touched the fringe of some of the dire needs of our institution. They and many others could be enlarged upon mightily. We have almost

reached the Parting of the Ways in this city and it is up to us to come together with as much harmony as it is possible to get among human beings.

Now, what are we going to do about it? I would suggest that we cease apologizing for our belief in Homeopathy and all it stands for and that, from tonight, we assert ourselves as never before in its behalf. That we have a line or lines laid for constructive work between our College and the various Homeopathic institutions of this city.

My suggestion and desire is that for tonight, as far as possible, we bury the past with all its bitterness; that we forget, each one, our personal ambitions and animosities; that for God's sake, as well as our own sake, we think only of our Mother College, for she is in distress by reason of her enemies and needs the assistance of every LOYAL SON. I say "down with every man who seeks her destruction, either openly or secretly." And, finally, I ask that we have appointed a strictly representative committee of ten or fifteen men in whom we can all place confidence, such committee to go into these and other matters in detail and then go before the Dean and Trustees with their various recommendations backed up by a UNITED ALUMNI.

At this point Dr. Allen spoke of the advisability of a $500.-000.00 endowment fund referring to the campaign made last fall by the Pittsburgh Homeopathic Medical College, during which that College raised $520,000.00. "If Pittsburgh can do this, New York can also, and this is the time to get the money for never before in the history of New York has money been so plentiful as now."

Dr. Moore: I would like to make a motion that, following your last suggestion, a committee of fifteen be appointed who should consider the suggestions made tonight, digest them, and the material received in Dr. Allen's 321 letters and then, representing this Alumni Association, go before the Dean and the Faculty with as many valued suggestions as they can get from these sources.

Dr. McDuffie: I second the motion.

Dr. Allen: You have heard the motion. It is open for discussion.

Dr. Helmuth: I would like to know why it is necessary to

bring these suggestions before the Board of Trustees. I would like to know if this is not such a matter as should be set before the Medical Staff of the Institution. It seems to me that before it goes before the Board of Trustees it should go before the Medical Staff. I think the men of the College have its best interests at heart and would do their utmost to carry out any suggestions from this body. It shows a lack of support and confidence to my mind. I should like to see these things come before the Faculty first, and, if they cannot handle them, it should go before the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Allen: Any further suggestions?

Dr. Gaines: There is no mistrust of the Faculty of the College and they are doing all they possibly can. This committee is to act as a buffer, receive the kicks, etc., and act with the Dean and co-operate with the Trustees.

Dr. Helmuth: Mr. President, I would like to ask why these things cannot be taken care of by the Faculty.

Dr. Allen: Do you, as a member of the Faculty, pledge yourself and Faculty to raise this $500,000.00?

Dr. Helmuth: I did not understand that this committee was to undertake the raising of this fund. The suggestions as made are for the consideration of the committee. I believe the Faculty would be very glad and only too happy to follow up any suggestions made in good faith, but, unfortunately, many of these suggestions that are made are not for the good of the Institution. We have been talking about loyalty. Let us be loyal.

Dr. Allen: Personally, I want these suggestions to go before the heads of our Institution and the Faculty is not at the top of the Institution. The Faculty will get it all eventually.

Dr. Moore: If I may explain further. I probably did not make myself understood. To me it seems that this motion of mine, if carried, is broader than Dr. Helmuth thinks. My idea is not to have this committee act upon all the remarks made, the 321 letters, Dr. Allen's suggestions, etc. They shall take all the matters brought up, sift them out and take something helpful from a very large number. My idea is, possibly the Board of Trustees needs criticism and not the Faculty. If it is a fact that there are 21 men on the Board and only seven to ten attend the meetings, possibly the other fourteen should be forced off. That

is just one feature of it. The propaganda for the raising of an endowment has been tried half-heartedly before. My motion was not directed against the Faculty. It is broader by far than that. It offers the chance of a committee that will act as a phalanx that can accomplish a great deal for the good of the College.

(Question was called for on motion. Since there was no opposition, the motion was carried unanimously.)

At this point Dr. Schenck read a carefully prepared and tabulated comparative statement of the condition of the College in 1908 and for the year just passed. This statement was as follows:

Dr. Schenk: There was some criticism two years ago, after the Private Pavilion was built, as to whether the Trustees did wisely in investing in the Private Pavilion with the hope that they would increase their income by so doing. The figures I have received with reference to the income from Private Pavilion are these: (Dr. Schenck then read some figures relative to the financial aspect of the institution.) There has been, as Dr. Allen spoke of in his statement, a feeling among the Board of Trustees largely that the Hospital was the chief thing to be considered. They forgot that the College was the reason for the establishment of the Hospital and that it was to be a clinical adjunct to the College. They have recently changed their attitude, as will be seen from the resolution made, which was to the effect that hereafter they would consider the College with the same interests that they have been considering the Hospital. It seems to me that that is a resolution that ought to make us all take heart and to realize that the Trustees are ready to give the College their whole-hearted support.

Dr. Bryan: We are told that within the last two or three years our graduates do not stand so well at the Regents' examinations or the State Board examinations as they did before. Is that a fact?

Dr. Allen: That statement is true, but I am glad to say that steps are being taken to remedy it.

Dr. Blackman: The standing of the College during the last three years with the State Board was very much lower than ever before. During the years 1913, 1914 and 1915 a great many

men came to us from other institutions, offering credits in anatomy, chemistry, pathology, etc. Now if you will analyze the men who came before the State Board, and those who failed, you will find that they failed in those subjects in which they brought us credit. For years this College of ours had a high standing. Ninety per cent. of the men who came before the State Board passed and when a large number fail you will find they have failed in those subjects on which they have offered credit.

Dr. Custis: I came here as a representative from the Washington Auxiliary. We all feel that the New York College is run for the benefit of the New York District. We feel that the New York physicians have in the past shown no regard for the alumni scattered throughout the country. We feel that the attitude has largely been that of personal self-seeking. We know that before our present Dean was Dean, the man before him was no less criticised. Finally he got out and ever since the present man has been in there has been absolutely no evidence of a loyal co-operation with the College by the New York men themselves. I think I am not putting it over-strongly when I say that men who fought the College when the former Dean was Dean are, some of them, fighting it today, and those men are fighting it not because the College was badly run, but because they thought they did not get something they ought to get, because they were neglected. The men in New York are doing nothing for the College except as they think their personal feelings go. Men who have got out begin to kick. They do not seem to think they can be out and not kick. I think it is really disgraceful and I hope out of this committee some remedy may come. As long as we have the present College management it is up to the men to support it.

Dr. Brown: Might I offer the suggestion that the Chairman appoint a committee to write Dr. Heitzman and express our regrets for his resignation? He resigned recently after teaching for many years and no comment was made.

(Dr. Allen put the motion and asked for discussion.)

Dr. Laidlaw: I respect Dr. Heitzman very highly, but this should be left to the committee until they are enlightened as to the facts of the situation.

(Dr. Gaines seconded Dr. Laidlaw's motion. Question called for. Motion was passed.)

Dr. Brown: We are not over-rating Dr. Heitzman in this. We are simply thanking him for the work done. We owe him some recognition for work done. As I understand it, he was not thrown out of the College.

Dr. Allen: How long had he served the College? Answer, 12 years. Did he receive a salary? Answer, Yes. I served it fifteen years and did not receive any salary, nor did I receive any word of comment when I resigned on account of ill health.

Dr. Cole: I make a motion that the matter be laid on the table.

(Motion seconded and carried.)

Dr. Allen: Dr. Custis, when you return to Washington will you please see that our men there are advised of the spirit of this meeting?

I want to thank you all for making the appointment of this committee possible and for your trust in the President. Those of you who will serve on the committee will please send in your names and from those who volunteer I will select some men to serve on the committee.

For our Annual Meeting plans are being made for a five hundred man dinner and as sure as there is a heaven above and an earth beneath we will have the five hundred men there. When you receive notice of that meeting be sure that you immediately send back the return card or letter with your check, as seating will be made in the order in which remittances are received.

Dr. Wilson: I would like to have you refer to the notes and see if the resolution or motion regarding the committee gives the President the power to appoint the committee.

Dr. McDonald: With reference to the question raised by Dr. Wilson I move that the President of the Alumni Association be given the power to appoint that committee.

(Motion seconded by Dr. Norton. Put to question and carried.)

A*Dr. Ritch* moved for adjournment and motion was seconded and carried.)

The Chironian

The monthly Journal of the Alumni Association of the New York Homeopathic Medical College and Flower Hospital.

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F. M. Dearborn, B. A., M. D., Class of 1900

R. F. Rabe, M. D. Class of 1896

EDITOR

E. R. Eaton, B. A., Class of 1919

The Editor is responsible only for opinions expressed in editorials.

EDITORIAL

HOMEOPATHY'S OPPORTUNITY.

AT a time when scientific research is encouraged in almost every direction and secures for itself the financial support necessary to its extension, it is pertinent to inquire what homeopathy can do in a similar direction. A very few of our laboratories, colleges and trained workers have to a limited extent blazed the way, but their work, excellent though it is, falls far short of advancing the claims and interests of homeopathy.

It is true that in the scientific world a much broader spirit of toleration of the beliefs and opinions of others has crowded aside the old spirit of intolerance and bigotry, and it is a fact that in the old school of medicine are many who, in a half-hearted way, have acknowledged the truth of our principles. Yet we are a long way from seeing homeopathy accepted as worthy of a place in the curriculum of the old school college. Could this be brought about, the last barrier between the opposing schools would be forever destroyed. An approximation to this happy state of affairs is to be found at the present time in the University

of California, where, in the medical department of the university, homeopathic principles and materia medica are given a dignified place in the medical course, although attendance in the homeopathic classes is not made obligatory upon the student. The success or failure of this innovation remains to be proved and, no doubt, the near future will be able to tell.

The homeopathic school has made persistent claims to therapeutic superiority and numerous clinical assertions have been put forward to substantiate these claims, yet rarely has any evidence been presented in a manner to satisfy the rigid requirements of impartial scientific investigation. The limitations of private practice necessarily forbid the presentation of the proof demanded, proof which must be so convincing that not even the slightest doubt can be cast upon its value. The case records of our homeopathic hospitals have not, unfortunately, been such as to furnish powerful arguments in behalf of our alleged therapeutiq superiority, for the reason that hospital practice is beset with numerous difficulties, well known to those who are engaged in it.

Yet it is, nevertheless, in the homeopathic hospital that this much needed work should and can be done. It can only be done by a whole-hearted, sincere and unselfish desire for the putting into operation of real teamwork on the part of clinicians, pathologists, materia medicists and surgeons, so that cases can be carefully checked up and ultimately presented in series of hundreds. Were this done, the homeopathic school in a few years' time would be in an unassailable position, able to compel the acknowledgment, rightly its own, among men of science. Homeopathic propaganda of this kind would give promise of real results, but to attain these, co-operation among homeopaths themselves must first be secured. Let us hope that this desirable consummation will be forthcoming within the near future.

R. F. Rabe, Class of 1896.

Obituary

EDWARD W. AVERY, CLASS OF 1868.

Dr. Edward W. Avery died at his home in Brooklyn, N. Y., on February 13th, 1917, in his seventy-seventh year.

ARTHUR A. VIBBARD, CLASS OF 1894.

Dr. Arthur A. Vibbard died on January 19th, 1917, from pneumonia, at his home in Albany, N. Y. He was forty-eight years of age.

ELROY B. WHITAKER, CLASS OF 1868.

Although a brief notice of Dr. Whitaker's death was published in the February number, we quote the following detailed account from a Barre (Vt.) newspaper:

"Dr E. B. Whitaker, a member of the Vermont Board of Medical Registration and deputy grand commander of the grand commandery of Vermont, Knights Templar, passed away at his home, 16 Merchant street, this forenoon, at 10:20 o'clock, the end following an illness of a year. With him in the hour of death were his son, Henry C. Whitaker, his daughter-in-law, Mrs. H. C. Whitaker, and his four grandchildren, the fifth being in Oak Park, Ill. Dr. Whitaker's demise removes one of the most prominet physicians in the State and a figure well known in Vermont Masonry for many years. Barre loses a professional man of the older generation and one who was held in high regard by its citizenry.

"Dr. Elroy Bidwell Whitaker was born in Bethel, December 29, 1845, a descendant of one of the oldest New England families, a family which came from England before the middle of the 17th century. At the age of two years his parents moved to Pittsford and his boyhood was passed in that village, where his father was a manufacturer of carriages and wagons. After finishing his education in the public schools, he received a few years of college instruction under a private tutor. He took one year at the Homœopathic College in Cleveland, O.,

and then went to the New York Homœopathic Medical College, where he was graduated in 1868.

"He settled in Hinesburg and built up an extensive practice throughout Chittenden and Addison counties. He remained there until 1892, when he moved to Richmond; and in 1895 he came to Barre and resided here since then. He was one of the most widely known and successful medical practitioners in the State. He served as president of the Vermont Homœopathic Medical Society and for many years had been a member of its Executive Board.

"When Vermont first adopted the law instituting the State Board of Medical Registration, Dr. Whitaker was one of the first to be appointed by the Governor and he remained a member of the board until his death, having been its treasurer for several years. The Medical Registration Board is a unit before which every physician must pass a satisfactory examination in order to receive a license to practice medicine in the State.

"In Masonic circles especially, he was one of the best known and highly respected men in Vermont. He became a member of Otter Creek Lodge in Pittsford very soon after he reached the age of 21. He therefore lacked only a few months of being '50 years a Mason.'

"He was married in 1872 to Jennie N. Patrick, of Hinesburg. Mrs. Whitaker's death occurred thirteen years ago. Their only child is Henry C. Whitaker, born in 1874, and at present publisher of the Monumental News and Park and Cemetery, in Chicago. The latter, with his wife and family, has been in attendance upon Dr. Whitaker since last summer, when his disease was diagnosed as a serious malady. Dr. Whitaker's grandchildren are Elroy, Lucy, Dorothy, Mary and Henry C., Jr."

JOHN L. MOFFAT, CLASS OF 1877.

"Dr. John Little Moffat, formerly for thirty-five years a prominent physician in Brooklyn and for the last five years a resident of Ithaca, N. Y., died in that city on Sunday, from tuberculosis. Dr. Moffat was in his sixty-fourth year and was born in Brooklyn. He was a graduate of Cornell University and the Homœopathic Medical College in Manhattan. Since his removal to Ithaca Dr. Moffat had specialized in diseases of the eye and ear. For a time he was the consulting ophthalmic surgeon of the Cumberland Street Hospital, Brooklyn.

"For nearly fifteen years Dr. Moffat was editor of The Journal of Ophthalmology, Otology and Laryngology, and for five years was editor of The Homœopathic Eye, Ear and Throat Journal. Dr. Moffat was a former President of the New York State and the Kings County Homœopathic Medical Societies, a former President of the Alumni Associations of the New York Homœopathic Medical College and of the Brooklyn Homœopathic and Cumberland Street Hospital.

"He was a member of the American Medical Editors' Association and of the American Homœopathic Ophthalmological and Laryngological Society, of which he was formerly Vice-President. He is survived by his wife, two sons, and a daughter. The funeral services will be held this afternoon in the Church of the New Jerusalem, Monroe Place and Clark Street, Brooklyn."

The above notice, in the New York Times of February 20th, 1917, inadequately expresses the activities of the late Dr. Moffat who, for so many years, was a constant attendant at our Alumni, and local State and national societies. For thirteen years Dr. Moffat was Secretary of the State Homœopathic Medical Society, besides holding the office of President, as noted above, in 1902. There are few men in the medical profession whose interest in all departments of medicine was so great or whose knowledge of the same, so thorough.

The Annual Meeting of the Homoeopathic Medical Society of the State of New York

New York City is to entertain the State Society at its annual meeting on April 10th and 11th. On the first day, Tuesday, the afternoon will be devoted to the consideration of the routine business of the Society and to the presentation of two papers on medicine or surgery, not as yet selected, and addresses by Drs. Charles E. Sawyer, of Marion, Ohio, and Willis A. Dewey, of Ann Arbor, Mich., relative to national medical affairs. Dr. Sawyer will speak on the question of federation and affiliation, while Dr. Dewey will present his interesting set of lantern slides, depicting Homeopathic properties. In the evening of Tuesday, April 10th, the usual banquet will be held, but should be much more enjoyable in character than usual because the Local Committee has promised a very interesting vaudeville entertainment to be given between courses. Probably not more than four speeches will be delivered in the evening, and two of these will be by Drs. Sawyer and Dewey. The visit of these enthusiastic Homœopathic workers should be most welcome by the Homeopathic profession, because it enables the local physicians to hear what has been accomplished along the lines of the reorganization of our national society and what steps are to be taken to insure the co-operation of the State societies. It is the intention of Dr. Sawyer, who represents the Executive Committee of the American Institute of Homœopathy, to spend about a month of his time visiting practically all of our State societies, outlining the topics mentioned above, while Dr. Dewey, who is the Secretary of the Council on Medical Education of the American Institute, is to speak on subjects related to his committee at a majority of these annual gatherings.

The Wednesday, or second day, sessions will be wholly clinical. This is a radical departure from former programs, and it is believed that it will be much appreciated by the up-State visitors, as well as by our New York City and Brooklyn brothers. All clinics are to be given at the Metropolitan Hospital, on Blackwell's Island. No more than three will be run in any one

hour and they will extend over a period of five hours, namely, from eleven to one in the morning, and from two to five in the afternoon. The Local Committee has arranged to serve a luncheon to all visiting physicians at the beautiful Nurses' Home at the Metropolitan Hospital shortly after one o'clock. We are informed that it will be possible to seat at least a hundred and sixty of our guests at one time in the spacious dining room of the Nurses' Home. It is hoped that Commissioner Kingsbury, of the Department of Public Charities, will address this gathering, and if any business matters are left over from the first day they will be considered before the afternoon clinics take place. While the details of the clinics have not been worked out, they will comprise the following subjects: General Surgery, Gynecology, Orthopedics, Genito-Urinary, Eye and Ear, Nose and Throat, Pediatrics, Neurology, Dermatology and X-Ray Diagnosis. This large hospital, containing nearly 2,000 beds, will furnish ample material for all clinics and a splendid opportunity will be afforded to all visitors to inspect the plant, comprising nearly forty buildings, and covering thirty acres of ground.

Alumni Notes.

'11. "F. F. Murdoch writes to friends in town that he has now completed his course in the treatment of tropical diseases in the Naval Medical College in Washington, and has emerged from his final examinations with a standing of second in his class. He is now rated as a passed assistant surgeon in the navy, and expects to receive his assignment for foreign duty any day. He will probably go to the capital of Nicaragua, where Uncle Sam maintains a garrison of a couple of companies of marines to assist in keeping order in that turbulent country, and to act as a guard for the legation there." (From the Warwick, N. Y., Advertiser—Feb. 1st, 1917.)

The Berwind Free Maternity Clinic (formerly Dr. Hill's Maternity Clinic, East 76th Street) is now located at 125 East 103d Street. The Chief of Staff is Dr. C. Lopez de Victoria, Class of '15. Resident Obstetrician, Dr. Morris Rosenfeld, Class of '16.

'15. L. J. Siegal has removed to 280 Broome Street, New York, N. Y.

On Tuesday evening, March 13th, in the College Library, Dean Copeland delivered an interesting and instructive lecture before the internes of Flower Hospital on the topic, "Medical Ethics." Dr. Copeland outlined his address in a manner that served the practical end for which it was intended, and the service rendered was appreciated and heartily applauded by all present. The lecture given is the first of a series of live and current topics that will be of permanent and immediate value to the young physician in hospital training.

Every disease epidemic in the world differs from every other, excepting only those few which are caused by a definite unchangeable miasm. Further, even every single case of epidemic and sporadic disease differs from every other, those only excepted that belong to the collective diseases noted elsewhere. Therefore the rational physician will judge every case of illness brought under his care according to its individual characteristics. When he has investigated its individual features and noted all its signs and symptoms (for they exist in order to be noted), he will treat it according to its individuality (*i. e.*, according to the particular group of symptoms it displays), with a suitable individual remedy.

Such a direct, unprejudiced and rational procedure will demonstrate wherein he differs from every physician who does not trouble to investigate the case of disease thoroughly, but (to suit his own convenience) generalizes regarding it, labels it according to the conjectural system which he affects, and models his treatment entirely on this conjecture.—*Organon of the Rational Art of Healing.*

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